

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil for cooking a food by using predetermined heating means, said cooking utensil comprising:

(a) means for setting a maintenance time setting means capable of by arbitrarily setting a time for executing maintenance items, said execution time being settable for each of said maintenance items; [and

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informing means for informing the execution time set by the maintenance time setting means]

(b) means for informing a user of said execution time for each one of said maintenance items set by said maintenance time setting means, said informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel of said cooking utensil for said heating means; and

(c) means for displaying one of said maintenance items after said predetermined sign is displayed in response to a predetermined operation of a switch provided on said operating panel.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a standard date is set in a predetermined cycle based on a calendar function has expired expiring.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the operating time of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard time.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

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Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein[[,]] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance [work] items.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein, after the information has

been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

Claims 9 and 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

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Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim [[3]] 2, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

Claims 13-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

Claim 19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2[[],] wherein[[],] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work items~~.

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Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3[[],] wherein[[],] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work items~~.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4[[],] wherein[[],] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work items~~.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

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Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 6[[],] wherein[[],] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work~~ items.

Claims 25-37. (Canceled)